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The Bell Ringer

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MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April, 1977

Krishna Movement Enters Nashville



A Krishna (middle) plies flowers for money in Metro a'port.

Mark Armour

Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

—THE HARE KRISHNA MANTRA

Outside New York's Madison Square Garden at the 1976 Democratic Convention, many people witnessed a sight that until recent years had been relatively uncommon. Alongside the various protesters, anti-abortionists, and gay liberators, a group of young robed men and women were energetically dancing and chanting, impervious to all onlookers. No one knew exactly why the Hare Krishnas were there, but their presence was unmistakable.

Since its formation in the United States in 1966, the Hare Krishna movement has experienced an astonishing increase in both popu-

lation and recognition. The time when the Hare Krishnas could be safely ignored and ridiculed for their actions is definitely past, and they are fast becoming a viable organization, drawing in more and more of the nation's youth. For example, the organization already possesses over one hundred centers around the world, and the number of devotees is increasing daily.

The movement first emerged in the United States during the turbulence of the 1960's. Its founder, usually addressed as His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada or, simply, Srila Prabhupada, came to the United States from India in 1965, becoming the one person solely responsible for spreading the Hare Krishna religion in the West. At a time when the Vietnamese War was tearing the nation asunder, the appeal of an Indian religion and its accompanying requirement of total submission to the authority of Srila

Prabhupada attracted many young people who had become disillusioned with their own country and their old way of life.

The Hare Krishna religion offered one essential benefit: higher spiritual enlightenment. The basic premise of the religion is that man is ultimately a spiritual part of the god Krishna, but is at present involved in totally material and mundane affairs which bear no relation at all to his ultimate salvation. The Hare Krishnas believe that by chanting their mantra one can secure an enlightened spiritual understanding of the universe. As Srila Prabhupada explains, "Chanting is for spiritual realization. You chant; then gradually you realize that you are a spiritual being and that you are not the body. Then your spiritual life begins."

A typical day in a Hare Krishna commune begins at three-thirty or four o'clock in the morning. In their temple, the devotees worship the Deity, chant their mantra, and study Vedic literature. Later in the day, they farm, cook, clean, and eat a restricted diet of vegetables, rice, grain, sugar, and milk. When they finally go to bed around ten o'clock, the devotees have spent an entire day working in an almost military atmosphere in which order and efficiency are the rule.

It is no wonder that criticism has been levelled at such a religion. Families see their children captured by an organization that they perceive as evil, foreign, and commercialistic. In all fairness, though, the motives of the Hare Krishnas cannot be impugned, for they are just as valid as those of any other religion. However, there is some question as to whether the Hare Krishna movement is a wholly non-profit organization.

For example, the organization recently purchased a twelve-story building in downtown Manhattan in order to stage theatrical plays

for which the viewer, of course, must pay an admission charge "for the cause." In addition to solicitations, the Hare Krishnas also raise money by selling books, cassettes, and records of the works of Srila Prabhupada.

An advertisement from the Hare Krishna magazine **Back to Godhead** reads, "Link up to the most important spiritual master in the world today with a Golden Avatar tape subscription. Each week you'll receive lectures, interviews, classes, and intimate conversations with

His Divine Grace." The price? \$35. Other advertisements offer the novels of His Divine Grace—in hardback or paperback form. Interestingly enough, the Hare Krishnas also have their own publishing company.

It is evident that the Hare Krishna movement is growing in numbers and power. Perhaps as more and more people begin to chant the mantra we will begin to pay more attention to what a nation of Hare Krishnas would mean.

Bodo Holds Art Exhibit

Mark Barnes

The numerous and varied artistic endeavors of Sandor Bodo, Jr. (class of '71) were displayed in the Audio-Visual Room of the Patrick Wilson Library throughout February and March.

Sandor (also known as Sonny) was a member of MBA's first art class which met in the attic of Vine Street Christian Church. After graduating from MBA, he studied at Brown University and exhibited his work at several regional art competitions and print shows, where he won numerous awards. Inspired by the success of his work, Sonny desired to do graduate work in graphics and film-making. Therefore, he spent the next year at Sheffield Polytechnic Institute in Sheffield, England, where he studied cinematography. Sonny is currently at the Royal Academy in London. His interests have broadened from graphics and sculpture to film making, photography, and the new medium of photo silk-screen prints.

Included in the exhibit were abstract wood and photo-sculptures, which are produced by applying photographs to three-dimensional wood arrangements, thus creating

an image of depth.

The prints in the collection manifested his great interest in novel photography. One, for example, was of aging Piccadilly buildings contrasted with a superimposed jet liner. Graphics from Sonny's earlier years included geometrical studies of pyramids, circles, and squares and several works in bright primary colors, which evidenced influence from the Pop-Art movement of the '60's.

Photo silk-screen prints from his later years were represented by studies of an Assyrian relief, the intricate arrangement of tree branches, and the rhythmic motion of a violinist, while abstract designs in strong colors characterized his acrylic paintings on wood panels. Sonny's original approaches to media and subject matter were also present in this exhibit.

Mrs. Lequire deserves special thanks for her continuing efforts to bring MBA into contact with the art community. By hosting numerous exhibits each year for talented and original artists such as Sonny Bodo and David Driskell, she has succeeded in her desire to furnish MBA students with numerous aesthetic experiences.

Gas Shortage Hits MBA

Gene Nelson

The natural gas shortage which struck the eastern half of the nation this winter had its effects here at MBA also, causing half-day schedules, athletic cancellations, chilled classrooms, and cold showers. However, MBA students complained little as they sustained the energy-related hardships, which were much less severe for them than for many other Nashville students.

Because of school days cancelled this winter, many Nashville schools will be in session during the time normally scheduled for spring vacation. No matter how many days are made up, the missed days have seriously disrupted the studies of Metro students.

Fortunately, no make-up school

days are expected to be scheduled at MBA. By cutting off completely two of the three heating furnaces, the school managed to remain open during most of the critical gas shortage period and still satisfy the demands of the Nashville Gas Company consultant, who read the school's gas meter daily to determine whether MBA could hold classes the following day.

An unfortunate result of this year's severe winter involves the cost of heating the school. The extreme cold and shortage of gas ran the heating bills for the coldest months to between twenty-two and twenty-three thousand dollars. This energy price rise was the major cause for the recently announced tuition increase.

Although the school is currently

well supplied with energy and functioning within the limits of the gas allotment, the problems caused by the energy shortage are certain to reach into the future. The costs of electricity as well as gas are increasing. Energy prices and availability are especially critical for large institutions such as Montgomery Bell since excessive amounts of fuel are needed to heat the many classrooms and the large volume of water used in the locker-room showers.

At this time no alternate energy sources have been found appropriate for use at MBA. However, if last winter's gas shortage is just the beginning of the energy crisis which has been predicted for years, some permanent changes in the school will have to come.



Sonny Bodo's sculptural works mix a wide variety of media.

Capital Punishment: Opinions Clash

Mark Armour

Last August, a motel clerk was shot and killed in the state of Utah. Last January, Gary Mark Gilmore was shot and killed, also in Utah. The first incident, everyone agreed, was the crime of murder. The second, according to the US Supreme Court and the state of Utah, was the justified use of the government's police power. Is there in fact any difference? To answer this question, it is necessary to examine both the social and moral value of capital punishment.

Deterrence in Death?

Most supporters of capital punishment suggest that because of the severity of death penalty, it should be retained as a deterrent to crime. Opponents argue that while an irrational murderer would not be dissuaded by any threat of punishment, regardless of its sternness, a more sensible killer would be adequately deterred by the threat of life imprisonment. Attempts to test these theories in practice have taken the form of highly complex sociological studies.

The first such study was conducted by Thorsten Sellin. Professor Sellin grouped on a regional basis states retaining and abolishing capital punishment. Comparing these groups by their murder rates, he concluded that the death penalty served no deterrent purpose, as murder rates were higher in states utilizing this penalty. However, these conclusions are certainly not definite: a state with a higher murder rate than another may have found that the death sentence successfully lowers what would have been an even higher mortality percentage.

Impact On Crime

In an attempt to remedy this flaw, Isaac Ehrlich, an econometrician with the University of Chicago, conducted a highly complex and comprehensive analysis. He concluded that an additional execution per year during the latter 1960's would have deterred between one and eight murders. Ehrlich's method was immediately attacked by other sociologists and economists on every conceivable ground.

Many teams of statisticians repeated Ehrlich's analysis with slight variations and did not find a deterrent effect; one team simply compared the methodologies of Sellin and Ehrlich and concluded that Sellin's state-by-state comparison was superior. Still another study, that of J. Yunker, has suggested that Ehrlich underestimated the decrease in murder by almost five times. With such divergent findings, this issue is not likely to be resolved in the near future. suggest that capital punishment

provides no better protection for police officers than life imprisonment. These studies further suggest a similar lack of deterrence for prison murders. Death penalty proponents, however, suggest that, by common sense, a person in prison for life has nothing to lose if there is no threat of execution. These advocates offer the example of a Florida prison which virtually ended its problem of violence with one execution. A California prison administrator, on the other hand,

because of these criminals' psychological instability, elimination of capital punishment would eliminate a "quite large" number of skyjacking attempts. Moreover, H. J. Zadack, Israel's Minister of Justice, suggests that capital punishment serves only to make martyrs of killers and to provide examples for other terrorists to emulate.

Perhaps the most damaging argument against the theory of deterrence is that present use of the death penalty does not actually discourage criminals. Because of the appeals process, plea bargaining, gubernatorial clemency, and a variety of other discretionary factors in our criminal justice system, death sentences are rare and executions even rarer.

Executions Unlikely

Only three hundred people in the United States are presently eligible for death. Many studies show that criminals do not consider the ultimate consequences of their actions; even if a criminal considers the death penalty before the committing a crime, he probably (and correctly) believes the possibility of his being executed is extremely remote.

Another argument for the death sentence is incapacitation: once dead, a criminal will commit no more crimes. Examples of violent criminals quickly released only to murder again are numerous; a recent one is Gary Gilmore. However, recidivism rates among murderers are relatively low. Further, incapacitation seems to be an argument for longer prison sentences, not for executions.

Contested Morality

The realities of crime prevention should not dominate any decision on the death penalty. Society may decide that, although executions deter crime, capital punishment exacts too high a moral price to justify its use. What could society do if the executed man is later proven innocent or his sentence is invalid? Do we have the right to kill one man as an example to others? The term "capital punishment" is misleading; death can remove a man from society but obviously cannot correct his behavior.

The moral issues of capital punishment are even less well-defined than the practical concerns. The

rather conservative Supreme Court argued last July that the death penalty is necessary in "an ordered society" as a purification process, uniquely satisfying society's outrage at "particularly offensive conduct." Other criminal justice experts (ironically, including Professor Ehrlich) argue that revenge has no place in our civilized society.

Public Preferences

Capital punishment proponents contend that 65% of the public want the death penalty. However, public opinion fluctuates on this issue. In the 960's, the majority of respondents to polls opposed capital punishment. Further, a 1972 poll showed that the public favors imprisonment over the death penalty if both have equal deterrent value.

There seems little doubt that capital punishment is applied in a discriminating manner. Minorities receive the death sentence in proportions exceeding their commission of crimes. Despite the Supreme Court's efforts, arbitrariness will inevitably remain whenever the death penalty is used.

No sociological study can demonstrate the truth of a particular moral value. Thus, each person will have to decide for himself whether capital punishment is morally just. This decision will hopefully be reflected in his state's judicial system. It is only fair to those who will die (some of whom will perhaps die innocent of any crime) and to our society, which will be engaged in the business of ordering death, to weigh the facts carefully before making a final decision on capital punishment.

Ed.: Our editorial stance is not necessarily that of the school.

Montgomery Bell Academy restates its open admissions policy. Applicants are considered on the basis of academic ability and previous school record, regardless of race, creed, or color. Applications are available at the school office. Telephone: 298-5514.



Many social scientists believe that the death penalty may, in fact, cause crime. Case studies of murderers provide many examples of psychotic persons whose primary motivation to kill was a desire for the state to execute them. Further, rates for murder seem to rise immediately before and after the execution of a criminal.

The deterrence question hardly ends with murder. Other specific types of crime such as police and prison killings and terrorism are involved.

In the case of police murder, studies by Sellin and Abdul-Fattah

contends that the death penalty destabilizes prisons and contributes to a dangerously explosive atmosphere.

Many proponents of capital punishment argue that it should be available in one instance, that of terrorism. They contend that only the threat of death can stop dedicated terrorists from further action; they also argue that killing one terrorist eliminates the incentive for his comrades to try to rescue him in prison. Again, an equally rational opposition exists. David Hubbard did case studies of twenty skyjackers and concluded

Big Red Club Must Change

Mark Armour

According to its charter, the Big Red Club was founded as "an organization whose purpose is to boost the esprit de corps in not only the athletic aspect of MBA, but also every other phase of our school." Unfortunately, indications that MBA has experienced a marked decline in school spirit over the past few years have brought the effectiveness of the club into question.

Perhaps the major failing of the club lies in the meaninglessness of its membership. Presently, the only criterion for membership is that a

student (sophomore, junior, or senior) be willing to support the school. However, aside from dues, the club requires nothing of the individual, and consequently the membership is filled with those who enjoy the status of being in the Big Red Club without actually energetically furthering its goals.

In fact, although the club constitutes approximately one-fifth of the student body, the slack in support of this year's football team indicates that many Big Red Club members did not even attend all of the games. Clearly, the purpose of a spirit organization is thwarted if its own members fail to set examples for the rest of the school.

Granted, the efforts of the club are not entirely fruitless. The cheerleaders have proved to be commendable in their efforts in pep rallies. However, in an organization whose primary purpose is "to encourage its members to attend all athletic contests and to sit in a body," non-participation breeds failure.

In conclusion, the club's charter describes school spirit as "one of the most valuable emotions that any student can feel." However, unless the Big Red Club and the entire student body undergo some drastic reorganization of values, then the spirit and morale of the entire school is threatened.

THE BELL RINGER

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Now or Never for Equal Rights

Ben Cohen

For the past five years, the American people have been entertained by the progress of the proposed Twenty-seventh Amendment to the US Constitution from state legislature to state supreme court, from state house to state senate, from federal Congress to federal Judiciary, as the ERA moves down the long road to ratification or defeat.

In the midst of the press conferences, demonstrations, and lobbying, however, the central question of whether the amendment should be ratified has largely been obscured by tactical considerations of how to ratify or defeat the ERA. To answer this fundamental question, it is necessary to return to the basic language and purpose of the amendment, which states:

Section I: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section II: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section III: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

The purpose of the amendment could hardly have been stated more clearly: to ensure that arbitrary, unnecessary, and capricious standards based on sex no longer are allowed to deprive US citizens of equal rights and justice. The need for such an amendment is fully as clear as its language. The Founding Fathers had no intention of granting women equal rights under the Constitution. Thomas Jefferson, for example, wrote:

Were our state a pure democracy there would still be excluded from our deliberations women, who, to prevent deprivation of morals and ambiguity of issues, should not mix promiscuously in gatherings of men.

If this sounds ridiculous it's because it is, but except for the Nineteenth Amendment permitting women to vote nothing whatever has altered the gross bias in the Constitution. As a result, according to the League of Women Voters, "Today, fifty-two years after ERA was first introduced (in Congress), women in some states are still not recognized as mature, responsible adults. They cannot serve on juries, start a business, get a mortgage, control their own property, their own paychecks, or the property and money of their children on the same basis as men."

Among those statutes which the amendment would render unconstitutional are prohibitive or restrictive labor laws, domicile limitations, or other restrictions on married women. The main effect, however, would be to alter sex identification in laws conferring a benefit, privilege, or obligation of citizenship on one sex: "protective" labor laws, social security benefits, alimony, child support and custody, divorce grounds, community property control, inheritance rights,

jury service, and military service. The revision of these laws would equalize some benefits for men and women. For example, labor codes often require rest periods for women but not for men; ERA would require the same policy for both sexes.

Distortions of ERA

But its principal effect would be to require fairer and more careful standards in law. It would not require an arbitrary 50-50 split in anything; alimony is a good example. Many states now require the husband to pay alimony in any divorce action. The ERA would not end this as a form of discrimination based on sex. It would merely substitute for "husband" the spouse contributing the great majority of family income. In most households, of course, nothing would be changed; the ERA would thus merely protect those men who do not contribute the bulk of the family income from an automatic, unjustifiable sex categorization.

Equally erroneous is the assumption that all sex standards would be prohibited under ERA, leading to drafting of women for front-line duty, unisex bathrooms, and a myriad of other horrors. ERA does not end all sex discrimination, any more than the Fourteenth Amendment ends all racial discrimination. It only ends arbitrary, capricious standards. If a role in a film calls for a white actor, a black actor is not justified in suing under the Fourteenth Amendment, because this is not an arbitrary standard based on race; while separate water fountains for blacks and whites is such a standard.

Similarly, the ERA ends all arbitrary sex standards, such as assuming that women are inherently unfit for joint property control, while men are somehow magically fit for such power. The key word is arbitrary. If there is a valid reason for a discriminatory standard, that standard will be untouched by ERA; only those laws which presume, in the words of one statute, that "women, children, and idiots" require the same level of societal supervision will be changed, and such laws discriminate against men and women alike.

Demagogic Issues

A brief word is necessary about the organized opponents of ERA: they are totally ruthless. No distortion or lie is too despicable for the leaders of this moral crusade not to stoop to it. They have claimed, unbelievably, that Clause III of the ERA will harm states' rights, though the same clause appears virtually unchanged in the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-sixth Amendments. Their misquotations of Dr. Paul Freund, a firm friend of women's rights, have led him to complain with justified bitterness that his entire testimony to Congress has been misinterpreted and falsified.

ERA's adversaries have ransacked recent legal history for court rulings to buttress their dis-

tortions. Having found nothing, they have hastily seized on three rulings (one in Illinois, two in Pennsylvania) which at least fall somewhere in the general vicinity of women's rights. Falling back on their habitual tactics, the opponents of the amendment use these rulings to claim that states with ERAs require equal child support and no alimony; the ladies, of course, suppress all the relevant details, which show clearly that each ruling was totally justified not only by the state ERAs but by the laws of each state before the ERAs were passed. Et cetera, et cetera. Every demagogic issue that could be pulled out of the gutter—rape, homosexuality, castration, family honor, bathrooms—has been played up to the hilt, heavily larded with hypocrisy and lies.

Amendment Support

Despite or because of the demagogic nonsense to which it has been subjected, the people and their government are on the verge of ratifying the Twenty-seventh Amendment. The bitter resistance to ERA thus far is a monument both to the brazen mendacity of ERA's opponents and to the spinelessness of some state legislatures. But this resistance is futile. Seventy percent of the American people, thirty-six states, both parties, and Congress (by a towering majority of 341 to 31) have endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment. All will be well—if the people exert themselves.

The greatest danger to the ERA lies not in its rather pathetic opponents but in those staunch supporters of equal rights who honestly believe ERA is unnecessary. These people believe either that ERA is taking too much of the limited money and energy of the equal rights movement (better to forget the vague amendment and concentrate on specific laws) or that the courts can interpret the Fourteenth Amendment to protect women's rights.

Reform Necessary

What these people must realize is that neither approach removes the need for ERA. The mechanical passage of laws on women's rights is too lengthy and uncertain a process without Constitutional sanction. For example, New York progressives decided on a piecemeal approach to women's rights in 1971. The first item on their agenda was a law requiring joint filing of financial statements in any divorce action. The law was passed last October. "That little piecemeal item took us five years," one assemblywoman commented bitterly.

Nor are the courts any panacea. In the 1971 case of *Reed vs. Reed*, the Supreme Court unanimously struck down an Idaho law giving preference to men over women as administrators of estates, all else being equal. But since that time, in this as in other matters, the court's direction has wavered. The attorney who prepared the winning brief in *Reed vs. Reed* has herself said that now she feels only ERA can permanently secure equal rights.

All of these efforts overlook a very significant point. Right now, with ERA in limbo, the rights of one-half our citizens depend on the will of state legislators, the Supreme Court, and Congress. Amer-

icans have never believed in entrusting their most sacred rights to the discretion of benevolent despots. What men and women supporting ERA demand is that the Constitution itself declare, in terms so clear as to be beyond misunderstanding, that women as well as men are entitled to equal justice. No American citizens have ever asked for more—or settled long for less.

A response to this editorial will appear in the fourth and final issue of the *Bell Ringer*. Signed letters to the editors are welcomed. The opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of the school.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Soccer Deserves Better Support

Albert Brown

It is my opinion that the soccer program should be ended once and for all. I base this conclusion on sound facts (as used in making all decisions at MBA).

The soccer team brings mud into the gym, but I am sure that the football team does not do this. The members of the soccer team are sometimes ineligible, but these same athletes always seem to be good students during football and basketball seasons (even if it means giving exams over to those who flunk the first time). There is a definite lack of participation in soccer. Only one hundred people came out for the varsity as opposed to the forty or so who came out for football. Last year alone six graduating seniors from the soccer team made varsity teams. In football, though, there were two; and in basketball, there were none.

Obviously the soccer program is not a winning program. It has only finished third, second, and first in three out of the last four state tournaments. The basketball team finished the last two years with a combined record of eleven wins and thirty-four losses. I am glad that MBA gets the finest equipment, but maybe it is time that the soccer team gets to have some tape and other training kit necessities.

MBA supports losers real well. How about supporting a team which represents the school better than any other? If the school treated all teams like winners, maybe we would play with more pride about our school.

Death Sentence: Retribution?

Nelson Griswold

Much controversy has arisen lately surrounding the impending reinstatement of capital punishment. Unfortunately, because of the immense press received by two convicts desiring to die as they have been sentenced, the public eye has been averted from the question of the purpose of the death penalty.

The intended purpose of capital punishment is the deterrence of criminals in the commission of capital (as defined by law) crimes; however, the modern trend seems to be toward the use of capital punishment as a weapon of societal retaliation for an individual crime. The individual criminal, thus, is being punished for committing his particular offense, not for committing merely a capital crime. In other words, the actual crime, and not the type of crime committed is punished.

Society is condemning men to death, perhaps not unjustly, but in the wrong spirit. The perpetrator of a capital crime deserves death, not just as punishment for his particular crime, but for his breach of the laws of society; for this breach, he ought to be punished, not for revenge, but for deterrence of other similar crimes. Sadly, society is so extremely concerned with avenging crime that it overlooks the fact that death, supposedly the ultimate punishment for the ultimate crimes, has a distinct purpose other than punishment for the sake of retribution. The fundamental purpose of capital punishment is the elimination of the need for capital punishment.

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Nashville Talent Highlights New Music

Nature Lyrics On Cotton LP

Hal West
Gene Cotton, a frustrated young singer/songwriter, once abandoned his proper share of royalties from a hit song entitled "Let Your Love Flow."

Although the song did little for him, it soared to the top of the teeny-bopper charts during the past summer. With his new album **Rain On**, Cotton hopes to capture the recognition he deserves. His current success with the single "You Got Me Running" has elevated him

from appearances at MBA assemblies about four years ago to appearances at the Exit-In and even American Bandstand.

Extracting ideas for love songs from nature (sunshine, sea, rain, clouds), Cotton records songs that are vibrant and alive with some that are soft and delicate. **Rain On** offers ten short, simplistic songs with enough variety to please the average listener. In addition to four mediocre fillers, the album submits five noteworthy tunes ("You Got Me Running," "Rain On," "Sweet Destiny," "It's Over Goodbye," and "My Love Comes Alive") and one good supporting selection, "Me and the Elephant."

Cotton effectively uses a brief backtracking beat which slows down the tempo just before increasing it again to secure the success of "You Got Me Running." Riding atop a galloping drum beat, "Sweet Destiny" arrives with rhythmic freshness. With bass guitar and violins complementing some nice piano music, Cotton sings a delicately tender "It's Over Good-

bye." In one of his typical love songs, "My Love Comes Alive," Cotton serenades his lover: "Tenderness, no bitterness, she's all that we have passed this loving arms and warm smiles; and now that we have passed this struggle to survive, my love comes alive."

Buffet's Opry Show Successful

John Andrews
Jimmy Buffet, that old familiar to many a Nashville honky-tonker, brought a Caribbean atmosphere to the Opry House February 15 with a performance highlighted by his unique lyrics and irresistible humor.

The evening began with some hot country-rock by Memphis' **Amazing Rhythm Aces**. After a tight, hour-long set that included good renditions of their hits, "Third-Rate Romance" and "I Knew It All Along," the **Rhythm Aces** relinquished the stage to Buffet and his back-up band, **The Coral Reefers**.

One talent which sets Jimmy Buffet apart from most musicians of his genre is his ability to alternate mellow lyrical ballads with

good-timing rock 'n' roll. Buffet started his set with the latter, with "Margueritaville," a cut from his newly released album. However, he then shifted the mood of his performance with some sensitive guitar tunes from his earlier albums. After a short break an hour into the concert, the rowdy nature of Buffet resurfaced, and he delighted the audience with tunes like "My Head Hurts, My Feet Stink, and I Don't Love Jesus" and "God's Own Drunk."

The concert at the Opry House was Jimmy Buffet's second appearance in Nashville in six months. Judging from the crowd's reaction to Buffet and the **Coral Reefers**, a third performance will certainly be welcomed whenever he returns.

McNeely Cuts Stars and Bars

David Smith
Nashville has once again produced an creative, multi-talented musician, blessed with innate musical mastery, is Rudy McNeely, whose first album **Stars and Bars** is a potpourri of his musical style. McNeely, a former MBA stu-

dent, has combined his talents with members of **Peace and Quiet** (a popular local band) to create a group capable of matching the performances of many more publicized bands. His rasping voice is used to best advantage on such hard rock numbers as "Get You Movin'" and "Don't Talk Bad About Me." A superb honky-tonk piano technique demonstrates McNeely's keyboard skills on the reggae number "Bury Me in Jamaica," while his down-home country pickin' shows through on the melancholy ballad "Song for Dixie."

Stars and Bars was produced by Mark Fleetwood, who has aided many a promising young talent in Nashville. As a sixth grader at Eakin School, McNeely was the youngest licensed drum instructor in Nashville's history. He has played with the like of Dicky Betts and Gregg Allman, and he was invited to Elton John's 1975 London birthday party. It is unfortunate, however, that McNeely is too much aware of his talent: the exhortation "Plug Me in" and "Let Me Go—I'm a One-Man Band" evidences the immaturity expected with new-found popularity. Hopefully, his limited success will not spoil the high quality of his future efforts.

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Jazz and Dance Dominate "Fat Tuesday"

K. Mallory

New Orleans, the "City that Care Forgot," decided to share some of its charisma with those Nashvillians who attended "Fat Tuesday" (And All That Jazz!) on February 17, 18 and 19:

Won't-cha come along with me,
To the Mis-sis-sip-pi?
We'll take the boat—to the lan'
of dreams,
Steam down the river down to
New Orleans;
The hands there to meet us,
Old friends to greet us,
Where all the light and the dark
folks meet—

This is Basin Street.
"Basin Street Blues"

The show owes its existence to the talent, originality, and hard work of three men and the associations surrounding them. Its producer, Wesley O. Brustad, is Managing Director of the Tennessee Performing Arts Foundation. Mr. Brustad, interested in combining various artistic disciplines to create novel productions, has succeeded by mixing dance and jazz in this first major original production.

The musicians who give "Fat Tuesday" the atmosphere of realism are under the direction of Allan

Jaffe, founder of New Orleans' famed Preservation Hall. The band which performed on stage through most of the show was Harold Dejan's Olympia Brass Band, perhaps the last and certainly the most famous example of the original jazz band.

The performers in "Fat Tuesday" are members of the Arthur Hall Afro-American Dance Ensemble. This company blends American, African, and Caribbean elements with jazz, modern dance, and ballet in order to explore and celebrate the African heritage of America today.

Basically, the performance con-

sisted of two acts. The first opened with a scene from an African tribal festival, establishing the connection between New Orleans and African traditions. The action then shifted to a New Orleans street on Mardi Gras. The scene was complete with such traditional New Orleans characters as the Zulu King, Mardi Gras Indians and other costumed revelers, enticingly dressed "Baby Dolls," as well as street vendors of a more legitimate sort.

The plot was simple, with a touch of "Porgie and Bess." It wasn't the story, but the flamboyant costumes,

dancing, and music that completely won the audience. No doubt many viewers had a hard time deciding which was more appealing, the skill and sheer abandon of the dancers or the pure, emotional jazz and blues that are the Preservation Hall musician's art.

"Fat Tuesday" (And All That Jazz!) may not be "the greatest show on earth," but the elaborate costumes, the bitter-sweet theme, and the joyous abundance of music and dancing certainly made for a show that will not soon be forgotten by many Nashvillians.

Taxi Driver: Mad Cabbie

Walter Robinson

Taxi Driver is one of the most intriguing films of social comment in recent times. A direct and hard-hitting analysis of the absurdity of American lifestyles, this incredible movie catalogues the life of a New York cabbie, but with important implications for all American urban life.

Robert DeNiro stars as Travis, the taxi driver, a man whose life is clearly a cycle of sanity and madness. DeNiro portrays both states exceptionally well, as evidenced by his Academy Award nomination. The movie begins with Travis' taking a job as a night-cabbie because, as he tells the foreman, he "can't sleep nights." But it is not his sleeplessness that Travis is trying to escape, it is his intense indifference; he simply has no real emotions. He soon begins to see New York and urban America as it really is, and he perceives his taxi as merely a part of this absurdity. Travis encounters murderers, prostitutes, street gangs, and many other aberrations of inner-city night life.

But he only reacts emotionally to his surroundings when he is confronted by innocence. Thus, his short-lived affair with a campaign worker (Cybil Sheppard) is destroyed when he takes her to a pornographic movie. She is above all the filth of Travis' world and walks out of his life in exasperation.

His pent-up emotions having pushed him to the limit, Travis explodes by furiously attacking the symbols of his depression. He outfits himself with an incredible arsenal of knives and guns and

attempts to assassinate the Presidential candidate in order to destroy symbolically his first love, the campaign worker.

But Travis is not killed, he merely starts his psychological cycle again. And what of this cycle? Is Travis himself inherently insane, or is he merely a product of his environment? One is not sure at the conclusion of the film. One thing is certain, however, and that is that **Taxi Driver** is a powerful comment on many's society and a film well worth seeing.

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MBA Winter Teams Perform Well

Soccer Brings Mixed Success

Tim Crenshaw

The MBA soccer team fell short again this year in its bid to capture the State Championship. Compiling a record of six wins, three losses, and two ties, the team was plagued the entire season by the inability to play well for a whole game.

The team traveled to Chattanooga for the State Soccer Tournament with high hopes of returning with the championship. Seeded third in the tournament, MBA opposed Castle Heights in the first round. Defensive confusion and offensive failure to take advantage of scoring opportunities were the name of the game as the Big Red fell 3 to 1. However, this was not a season without any glory, for Albert Brown was selected as a member of the All-American Soccer Team.



Josh May grapples with Hillwood opponent for a pin.

MBA won the first three games of the season rather handily, downing Hillsboro 3 to 0, Dupont 3 to 0, and St. Andrews 5 to 0. The offense, led by seniors Albert Brown, Mike Chernau, and David Schull, enjoyed its most productive period during the early part of the season, while the defense lived up to its nickname of "the Wall" by shutting out the opposition. The fullbacks allowed such a small number of shots that goalie John Hannon hardly touched the ball. However, the situation changed when the team traveled to Memphis to play MUS. A goal by Jay Hitt salvaged a 1 to 1 tie which disguised the poor quality of MBA's play. The team then bounced back to defeat Notre Dame 5 to 0 and ended the first half of the season on a winning note.

Inclement weather after Christmas prevented practice, and the soccer squad entered its game against arch rival Father Ryan without having practiced for several weeks. The Big Red took a 1 to 0 lead on a shot by Tim Crenshaw, but was unable to hold back an excellent Ryan team, finally losing 3 to 1. MBA won its next two games 2 to 0 over Sewanee and 2 to 1 over McGavock. The offense sputtered, but the defense got excellent play from Tommy Lanham, Greg Simpson, Greg Estes, and Kirk Norling to prevent any upset hopes of these two teams. Simpson was selected as the top player in the Sewanee game, and Mike Chernau scored a last-minute goal to defeat McGavock.

In a game which even an overtime period failed to decide, MBA and MUS battled to another 1 to 1 tie in front of a large crowd of enthusiastic Big Red fans. The last game of the year was against number-one ranked McCallie. The soccer team turned in perhaps its best performance of the year but could not score a goal. With less than three minutes remaining, McCallie scored to hand the Big Red a disappointing loss.

Throughout the season, William Morgan, Roger Burrus, and Lawson Fort came off the bench to turn in fine performances. With a solid nucleus of experienced varsity performers and several promising junior varsity members returning next year, the soccer team will strive to improve on this year's record and bring home the State Championship.

Wrestling: A Solid Record

John Anderson

Under the leadership of coach Tom Galbierz this year's young varsity wrestling team finished the season with a solid 5-3 dual match record.

Highlights of the season came with impressive wins over Bellevue, Maplewood, and Glenciff and also included a satisfying 47-6 annihilation of rival BGA. The team did not enjoy great success in tournament competition, however, mainly because of the inexperience of many of the wrestlers.

The starting squad boasted only one senior: Jerry Jordan (126); eight juniors: Charlie Duffy (105), John Anderson (112), Stephen Hinshaw (119), Paul Stumb (145), Bob Russell (155), Pete Delay and Chris London (167), and heavyweight Galt Baker; sophomores Bobby Huddleston (132) and Mark Frost (138); and freshmen David Molesworth (98), Tim Warnock (119), and Russell Regen (185). Five of these (Hinshaw, Stumb, Frost, London, and Baker) qualified for the Region III tournament by placing in the district, but none qualified for the state tournament in Chattanooga.

The team was led all season by all-NIL Galt Baker, who won the Overton Invitational, Ryan Invitational, and District crowns while compiling a 22-3 season record. Two of these losses came in the regional, where Baker failed to qualify

for the state after losing disappointingly in the semi-final round. With one more year of experience and a summer trip to wrestling camp, Galt should be an outstanding member of the team and a top contender in the state next year.

The team will feel the loss of Coach Galbierz, who is joining the Vanderbilt coaching staff this summer, but next year's new head-coach Steve Williams, an assistant at Overton and this year's head coach at BGA, will have a strong and experienced team returning and should have an excellent season next year.

Varsity BB Ends Tough Season

Steve Parman

This year's MBA varsity basketball team compiled an overall record of seven wins and sixteen losses. Steve Elliott, Steve Roberts, and Captain Danny Newman were among the statistical leaders for the squad, which counted among its victories two wins each over Antioch and Webb School, plus single victories over Hillsboro, Cohn, and University School.

Despite the disappointing record, Head Coach John Bennett evaluates the season in a very positive manner: "In cooperation, attitude, and

dedication, this is one of the finest groups I've had in fourteen years at MBA."

Bennett points to the fine leadership of seniors Newman, Elliott, Doug Maxwell, and Lyle Beasley, as well as to the contributions of younger players, as important aspects of the team's performance.

With regard to the win-loss record, Coach Bennett asserts that "the school doesn't realize that we are playing in class AAA even though our enrollment is just a few students over single A classification. We beat two teams that went to the Sub-State in class A."

Coach Bennett also notes that the Big Red showed substantial improvement over the season, particularly in the ability to control the tempo of the game. In the final four regular season games, MBA yielded only 49 points per game.

Next year's outlook is bright, since seven lettermen return: Robert Holland, Andy Smith, Steve Roberts, Wenning Hardin, Andy Massey, Barry Ralston, and freshman Ricky Bowers, whose ball-handling under pressure belied his lack of varsity experience.

Coach Bennett disavows any intention of playing anything but a AAA schedule in future years. "The players want to compete for the district championship," says Bennett. "It would be wrong to deny them the opportunity to do that."

Sports Spots

Frosh Wrestling

John Anderson

This year's freshmen wrestling team under head coach Anderson Gaither finished its season with a 4-5 dual match record. Highlights of the season were important victories over Ryan and Apollo Junior High. In the junior-high tournament at the end of the season, Johnny Wagster (112) and Josh May (126) succeeded in placing third and fourth respectively.

This team boasted some strong individual talent in seventh and eighth grade participants, as well as in the many freshmen. The eagerness with which this team worked and wrestled should enable many of these wrestlers to contribute to the varsity squad next year.

Freshman BB

Chris Milan

This year's freshman basketball team, under the direction of Coach Kevin Harkey, finished its season with a respectable record of six wins and eight losses in the difficult NIL Junior High League.

The squad showed much improvement with added experience in the course of the year. Jimmy Griscom and Freddie Horton led the team in scoring and rebounding, while Tom Moore, who was

injured for most of the season, returned in the latter part of the schedule to add some needed firepower. Joe Davis and Bob Calton led a tenacious defense; Chris Hill and Nathan Phillips also added to the team's strength.

The highlight of the Frosh season came in an exciting victory over Bass Junior High. In post-season tournament play, the Little Red lost a hard-fought decision to Moore in a game in which Horton scored twenty-two points. The below .500 record is somewhat deceiving since the freshmen were competitive in every game. This group should prove extremely helpful in the future to the MBA basketball program.

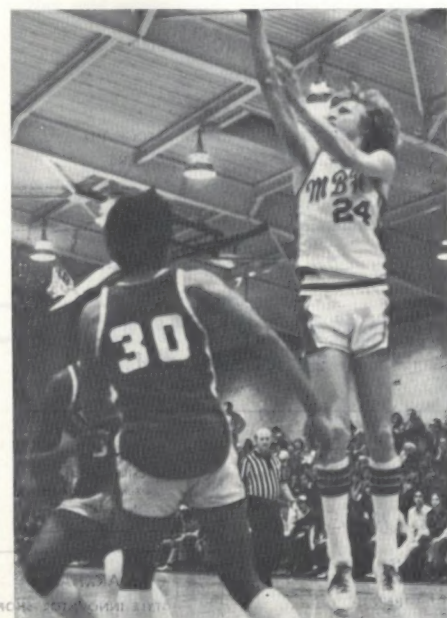
JV Basketball

Steve Parman

Coach Jay Ramsey's junior varsity basketball team completed its season with a record of eight wins and ten losses.

The team's eight victories included two wins over the arch-rival BGA Wildcats, an overtime victory over Antioch, and a very satisfying one-point defeat of Pearl on the Tigers' home floor.

The most valuable result of the season is the experience gained by future participants on the varsity basketball program.



MBA's high school basketball teams had trouble overcoming stiff competition.